



EPA

Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION IX • NOVEMBER 2000

Proposed \$862 Million Settlement to Pay for Iron Mountain Mine Cleanup

The United States and the State of California have achieved a tentative settlement for the cleanup of the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site. This settlement includes funding of \$862 million for future cleanup and restoration activities.

The public is invited to review and comment on the proposed consent decree, which is the legal instrument that defines the responsibilities of all the parties involved in the settlement. The 30-day public comment period begins on October 19, 2000, and ends on November 13, 2000. A copy of the proposed consent decree is available at the addresses listed below.

Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Box 7611, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C., 20044-7611, and should refer to United States v. Iron Mountain Mines, Inc., et al., DOJ Ref. #90-11-3-196A. Commenters may request a public hearing in the Redding area, but it must be received before the end of the comment period.

Under the proposed consent decree, the settling parties have agreed to pay for future cleanup at the Site. Future work includes, among other things, operation and maintenance of the cleanup remedies selected in the four Records of Decision issued to date by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These activities involve maintenance of the collection, conveyance, and treatment systems designed to address discharges of acid mine drainage from the Site, as well as certain additional activities.

Operation and maintenance of the cleanup remedies will be conducted by a site operator that signed the consent decree and will be funded through a structured settlement with the settling parties. The structured settlement provides, through an insurance vehicle, coverages totaling approximately \$337 million for the first thirty years of Site activities, together with a balloon payment of approximately \$514 million after the thirtieth year, from which the federal or State of Califor-



Figure 1: General map of the Iron Mountain Mine location.

nia government may fund future activities. The proposed settlement also provides \$11 million for natural resource damage activities, such as wetlands restoration.

The proposed consent decree may be examined at the EPA Region 9 Superfund Records Center, 95 Hawthorne Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, California, 94105, and at the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, 501 "I" Street, Suite 10-100, Sacramento, California, 95814. A copy of the proposed consent decree may be also be obtained by mail from the Department of Justice Consent Decree Library, Box 7611, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C., 20044-7611. In requesting a copy, please refer to the referenced case and enclose a check in the amount of \$231.75 (25 cents per page reproduction costs), payable to the Consent Decree Library. A copy of the decree, exclusive of the parties' signature pages and the attachments, may be obtained for \$21.50.

The repositories for the Iron Mountain Mine Administrative Record are:

Shasta County Library
1855 Shasta St., Redding, CA 96002
(916) 225-5756

EPA Records Center
95 Hawthorne St., Suite 403S, San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

For further information on the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund site, please contact:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 • 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3) • San Francisco, CA 94105
EPA's toll-free information line: (800) 231-3075



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